Nation
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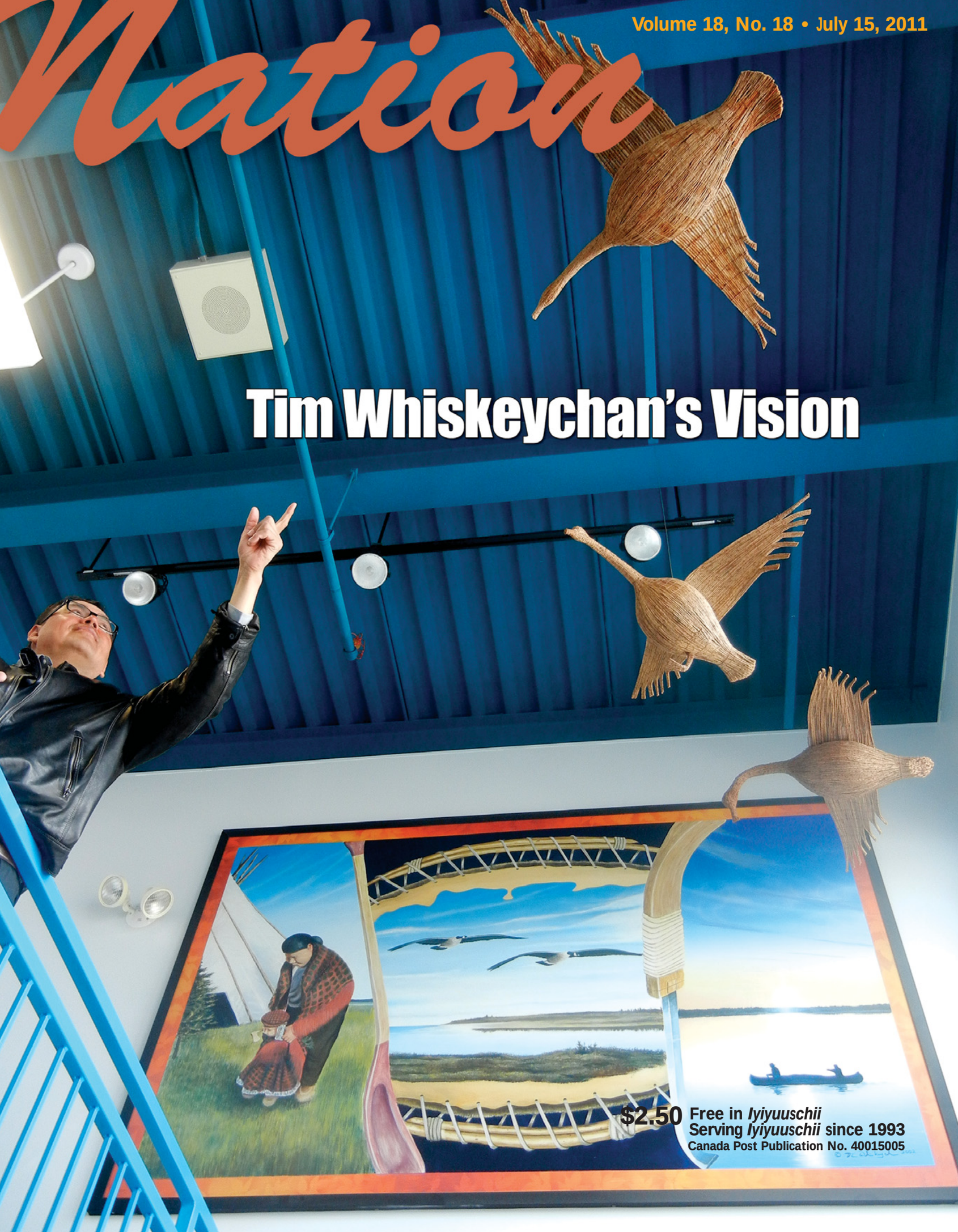
# Tim Whiskeychan's Vision



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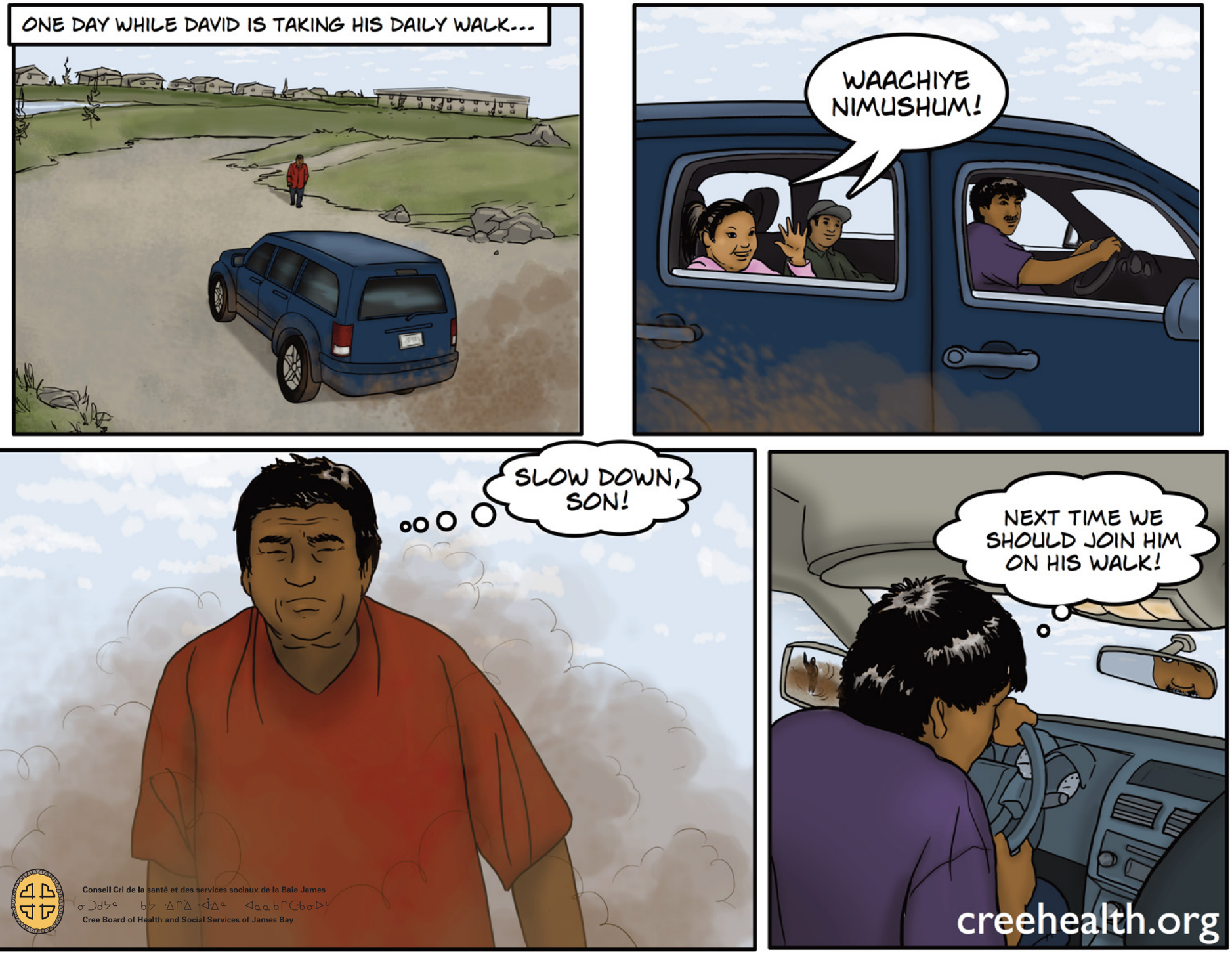
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Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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# Sweetgrass on the verge

By Phoebe Sutherland

The restaurant biz is one the toughest businesses to be in, and this is the one I have dedicated the last 7-1/2 years of my life to. It has been a dream come true and one I would like to share with you.

I know I have written this before and spoken about it at several conferences, how Sweetgrass started. Well, here's just a little recap – the idea came about at a family dinner, the talk of "what if" we one day opened a Native restaurant and served fine First Nations Foods. It was an idea that drove me to pursue my education in this field – a certificate in Hotel, Restaurant Management and then a degree in Culinary Arts. With my family, we did our business plan, worked hard at finding grants and set our minds on "just doing it". We aimed high and decided to open in the Nation's capital, Ottawa.

Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro is a restaurant like no other. It is a place where we showcase our Native foods in an upscale manner, a place of comfort with warm inviting tones, Native music in the background and art by talented artists on the walls. We have contributed to the community through catering events, hosting special evenings, food demos and art shows. We have even travelled as far as Mistissini and Montreal with our food and service, and hopefully we can do more.

Along with opening a restaurant come many hardships. It is not as easy as it may look to some. Being in the city, the rents are high, food supply has to be constant, frequent staffing changes and let's not forget, TAXES!! Yes, the latter is the killer and one that many restaurants struggle with and are brought down by. We humbly opened our restaurant at a low cost, worked day and night with friends and family. Our opening date was November 15, 2003, and off to the races we went.

The first few years were a learning experience, with none of us ever having owned a business before. We were young adults trying to make it in a world with lots of tough competition. With next to nothing to advertise with, we managed to put Sweetgrass on the map with Ottawa's Best New Business within our first year, and got many other mentions as one of Canada's top restaurants. All merits that we are so proud to have achieved.

Over the years, we have had repeat patrons who love our food and believe in the concept of Sweetgrass. From Chiefs, MPs, cabinet ministers, celebrities, hockey players, First Nation people and non-Aboriginals, we have valued each and everyone for 7-1/2 years. Without these people, we would not still be here.

Today, I struggle with keeping my life's dream afloat. As the sole proprietor being immersed in all aspects of the business, it is a place that I now only begin to understand. The numbers owing to the government, suppliers and utilities are huge and I'm not sure if I can get out from under it to be honest, not alone anyway. We have sought additional funding over the years but to no avail, and we probably just didn't know whose doors to knock on. I find asking for help hard to do, especially when you've done things by yourself for a very long time.

I recently posted on Facebook that we are on the verge of closing and asked for your support through prayer, ideas and financial donations. This restaurant is a Cree-owned business and I believe it has done our people proud. Where we go from here, only God knows.

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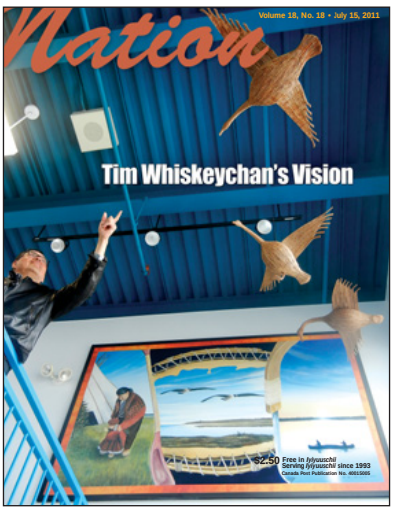

# Summer, cont'd

By Sonny Orr

One of the nice things about summer is the times set aside to celebrate. Given the long days and energy everyone seems to have in early summer to plan, design, discuss, pay for and carry out in grand style – like galas, weddings, holiday parties and graduations. This all takes time and patience…

Since all this celebration has reasons, I see many people I know at every bash in town. Then you realize that everyone always has some stake in the whole purpose of parties – happy smiles and tired babies, grinning ring bearers and proud parents, people of all ages dressed to impress and honour. Yes, the days of summer were made for this type of stuff, much better than at 40 below. Recently, a rare and special outdoor wedding took place on a perfect calm day, although the bugs were a bit nasty, it was a pleasant change to the standard indoor ceremony.

Graduations are about equal in stature, as you become someone who is recognized for finishing and excelling some level of schooling. As this magazine showcases those who graduate, let me remind you that this is what we invested in a long time ago – people with Masters, PhDs, degrees, certificates, diplomas, high school education and even getting into secondary school – this is what we paid for. Soon, professionals from next door will be our new advisors, teachers, plumbers, physicians and biologists. The amount of funds used to get there just seems worth it when it finally gets done and you have a Cree professional.

Soon, as I watch proudly, the steps of children who will enter into high school, unaware perhaps that they eventually will care for us in our hospitals and train their own children at schools, build their own homes with skills and experience, and extract resources from the lands to make enough money to get off welfare and handouts. Soon that future will be theirs to care for. Perhaps it may be wishful thinking, but an entire hydroelectric system is there to run, for example. Who says that one day we may run that whole thing? The future is in their hands when the children walk down that aisle to accept their congratulations and recognition. Now, that is a reason to celebrate.

Of course, summer is a host of other occasions, including many long weekends. I remember witnessing a gigantic bonfire somewhere in Abitibi for St-Jean-Baptiste and leaving with my facial skin feeling a bit leathery from leaning a little too close to the 50-foot flames. Then there's Ottawa's daylong event climaxing with some impressive fireworks, this year included a visit by the future King of England no less! As summer flies by, the construction holiday literally jams rural routes with happy guys sans hard hats off to the cottage for a little R'n'R. For us further north, there is no such holiday, as every day has to be a construction day before the cold winter sets in.

Many times, there is no real reason to celebrate, except for the working summer hours, where Fridays are cut short, giving every weekend a long-weekend feel. Don'tcha just love summer? It seems like one long holiday punctuated with work here and there.

But, when reality sets in for those who bask too long in their own glory, it's time to get to work at some summer job, if you're a student or seasonal worker. Back in the day, summer jobs were literally handed out to those who were of working age. One summer job we had, we got paid only after the job was done, just before school started. When we received our first really large cheque, my buddy nearly fainted and panicked with the amount of money he held in his shaking hand. He realized that he had to get a wallet to hold the wad of bills and figure out what to do with all his money. He was in a quandary and nervous for a number of days. Happily, his family was more than happy to help him figure out what to do. I, on the other hand, left for school in the south, where my new wealth kept me happy for a number of months, given the fact that a pack of smokes was less than a buck and pop was still a quarter. Today, earnings just don't carry as far and summer just seems a little shorter…

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# A woman on the go

## Nakuset discusses the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal's recovery

By Amy German

In 2010, the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal (NWSM) was hit with a devastating blow – a $35,000 cut to its annual funding when the federal government terminated the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's funding.

Those precious dollars, about one third of the NWSM funding, went to pay for a wide variety of therapies for the shelter's clientele. While the NWSM houses fewer than 30 people under one roof, back when the cuts were made they were offering outreach services to about 200 women who had come to the Montreal area for services.

One year later, at the NWSM Annual General Meeting (AGM) held June 22 at the Maritime Plaza Hotel in Montreal, Nakuset was able to talk about the significant strides the shelter had made in terms of fundraising.

Joey Flowers, a law student from the McGill First Nations House

In March 2011, the Mamu Chu Chi Nan fundraiser dinner organized by Joey Flowers, a law student from the McGill First Nations House, at Restaurant Nouveau Palais was able to surpass its original goal of $5000. This special dinner event, which featured Aboriginal foods from all over Quebec, accompanied by a silent auction, was able to bring in about $13,000 for the shelter's annual budget.

Also at this year's AGM, Nakuset said they had the pleasure of hosting Jeffrey Drouge from Health Canada. The idea behind inviting Health Canada to the meeting she explained was because the NWSM has requested new funding from the government to pay for healing services that the shelter had to cut back on when it lost the funding in 2010.

"I have requested that we get a lump sum of $35,000 from which we can pay the psychotherapists on a client-per-client basis. This is what we used to get from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and this would help our budget big-time," she said.

Funding hasn't only come in from the one-off dinner benefit as Nakuset said the Trafalgar School for Girls also named the NWSM as the beneficiary to its annual golf tournament in June and was able to issue the shelter a $3000 cheque.

Always on the go and never willing to turn down an opportunity to speak on behalf of the shelter or educate the public about the plight of Aboriginal women, Nakuset said she has been working intensively on publicizing the NWSM so that the shelter's message meets more individuals. CBC television recently filmed an upcoming documentary on urban Aboriginals using the shelter and the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK as a focus.

"The idea was to look at how we were moving forward in the cities as opposed to being on reserves. They chose Montreal because of what has been happening with the Network and they interviewed us at the shelter, a client and looked at our board meeting. They also sat in on a meeting for the Network. This is going to air early next year and will bring us so much publicity," said Nakuset.

At the same time, she said she was looking forward to another special being done on the shelter in Chatelaine magazine. Never wasting a moment, Nakuset has been doing public speaking events throughout Montreal to educate people on Native cultures as well as the NWSM's needs. This has seen new funding commitments from private individuals, sometimes committing themselves for a few years of support at a time.

Because of all this publicity, the NWSM went ahead and changed the format for its website so that individuals can now donate funding via credit card online.

Having championed the rights and needs of Aboriginal women within the shelter for many years, Nakuset has never lost sight of the most vulnerable among urban Aboriginals – the hundreds of First Nations children without natural parents to care for them.

This was why she has continued over the years to work with Batshaw Youth and Family Services to solicit urban Aboriginals to become foster parents.

And, for the many non-Aboriginals who are rapidly becoming adoptive or foster parents to First Nations youth, Nakuset has been working integrally with Batshaw to create the Cultural Manual for Foster or Adoptive Parents of Aboriginal Children. Now almost ready for print, this special manual contains all sorts of important information that Batshaw didn't even have on file, such as how to apply for a child's beneficiary number or status as well as cultural and language information, and Aboriginal role models from different communities.

"There is a definite need for this manual because there are so many First Nations children in care and we want to make sure that these children who are adopted or fostered by non-Aboriginals can be brought up to be proud of their heritage and also have access to all of the services that they are entitled to," said Nakuset.

Last but not least, Nakuset said she was able to welcome two new members to the NWSM Board of Directors, Séri Jacobs and Jonas Gilbert, both of whom are Beesum Communications employees.

In all, Nakuset said that so far 2011 has been a fabulous year in terms of what the NWSM has been able to do for Aboriginal women and children.

For more info: www.nwsm.info/welcome-en.html

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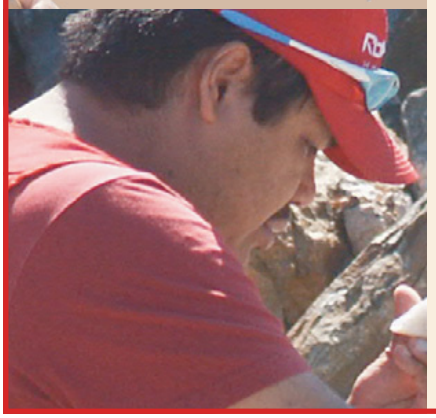

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The Renard Project

Congratulations to Kayleigh Spencer, a 15 year old from Mistissini who has been chosen to participate in the Students on Ice Expedition 2011.

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# Battling the Eskan warriors

## Val-d'Or's Friendship Centre speaks out against "racist" advertising

By Amy German

While Eska water products may line the shelves of stores throughout the province of Quebec, the Eaux Vives Water Company's latest ad campaign has been leaving a bitter taste in the mouths of those at the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre (NFC) over allegations of racism in both the French and English TV spots.

The ad itself features a man attempting to pour orange juice into a glass of Eska water when his friend warns him not to disrupt the "purity" of Eska for fear of the "Eskan Warriors." The legend of the fictional "Eskan Warriors" is then told and the warriors magically appear, resembling some kind of Native group out of the Stone Age, but certainly not one from the Abitibi region. Cut to an arrow coming from the warriors, hitting a framed picture in the kitchen and the warriors have lodged their warning shot to protect the water's purity.

Much like the Algonquins whose traditional territory serves as the Eska water bottling facility, the ad does make reference to the 8000 years of occupation that the Algonquin people have had on that land and their desire to protect the purity of the natural resources on that land that they are so deeply connected to.

NFC Executive Director Edith Cloutier said she found the Natives in the ad to be like the kinds of stereotypical primitive "savages," that Natives have been depicted as in the past. But, as the ad at the same time makes references to the actual history of the Algonquin peoples, steering fact and fiction get too close for comfort.

"Eska water is located between Val-d'Or and Amos in St-Mathieu-d'Harricana, right in the heart of Algonquin-Anishnabe territory. These are traditional territories that contain a lot of natural resources – water, forestry and minerals. This is all part of that natural-resource exploitation on these traditional lands. The Algonquin people are still caught up in many land claims issues and have said that they have never ceded the territory and that is part of the bigger picture with negotiations and land claims. But yes, Eska is based on the traditional territory and even their website makes reference to this," said Cloutier.

An image, taken from YouTube, of the television ad for Eska Water.

Cloutier sent an open letter to Eska's publicist as well as the local Val-d'Or media on June 27 and spent the following day responding to the media over the letter. In it she asks that Eska pull its advertising campaign featuring the "Eskan Warriors".

In the letter she states, "In fact, what upsets us in your message is the reinforcement of prejudices against First Peoples: primitive Indigenous persons embodied as stupid looking 'Eska warriors', willing to kill to protect the 'purity' of water for the past 8000 years. Although this last reference to the occupation of the land by the Anishnabek for thousands of years is right, your message still maintains the myth of the scary 'savage Indian' who 'normally shoots more accurately' with his weapon..."

Since the NFC's media blitz, Cloutier said she did get a response from Eska's publicists but only to say that they were sorry for offending anyone and that they would be looking into it, not that they would be pulling the advertisement.

While Cloutier said she could see the humour in what the advertisers are trying to portray, she believes the whole Native aspect was ill conceived and in poor taste. She has in fact even offered to work with the ad company to revamp the campaign so that Natives can be in on the joke instead of the butt of it.

As the NFC works year round to promote unity between Native and non-Native people in the north, Cloutier pointed to the irony of having this ad come out hot on the heels of the June 21 National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

The NFC had just finished putting on a big bash in the city that featured Cree rockers CerAmony and a series of traditional performers, a celebration that attracted over 1200 people.

"It's funny because we have this event which is meant to bridge the gaps between the Natives and the non-Natives. It happens so non-Native people can learn about the richness and diversity of our culture and tradition and show that we have contemporary and traditional aspects to our culture.

"At the same time, this is why it's so important when something happens like this with Eska water we try to bridge the gap in order to break the cycle of racism and stereotyping," said Cloutier.

On July 7, the Eska company issued a formal apology regarding the ad and has since announced that it will be pulling its current marketing campaign until further notice.

"I think that they underestimated the impact that First Nations people have in Quebec and the solidarity we can have. They recognized their mistake, and I accept their apology. We will be meeting with their marketing director on July 18 as I think that they are looking to opening up a dialogue," said Cloutier.

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## Man stabbed and medivaced out of Whapmagoostui

Constable Johnny Kawapit of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force in Whapmagoostui confirmed that on June 26, police received a call from the local nurse to look into an apparent stabbing.

The call came in at around 3:58 pm – about 14 hours after first responders went to the home of Brian Atchynia around 2:00 am after receiving a call for assistance. Police were contacted when the local medical staff decided that Atchynia's injuries were severe enough to warrant him being medivaced out for treatment elsewhere.

"The nurse was unable to tell if Atchynia had been stabbed or had fallen accidentally onto a sharp object. As a result, police were only called into investigate later on.

"The victim was unable to recall any of the events that led up to his injuries and police suspect that alcohol played a role in this assault. So far nobody has been charged in the incident," said Kawapit.

An investigation into Atchynia's injuries remains open at this time.

## Police seeking suspect in Kuujjuarapik child sexual assault case

Yann Thiboudeau, a spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec, confirmed that an investigation was underway in relation to a sexual assault committed on an eight-year-old child on June 16 in Kuujuarapik.

This is a joint investigation being conducted by the Nunavik branch of the SQ and the Kativik Regional Police Services. They are actively looking for a 23-year-old male suspect who measures 1.78 metres in height and weights approximately 70 kgs. The suspect is also described as having brown hair and brown eyes.

The man's name is currently being withheld pending an arrest warrant but all of those wishing to communicate any information about this crime can call confidentially at 1-800-659-4264

## Government refuses to set up task force on Aboriginal women

Despite the fact that there are over 582 missing/murdered Aboriginal women in Canada, Status of Women Minister Rona Ambrose said that the federal government will not be setting up a specific task force to deal with the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

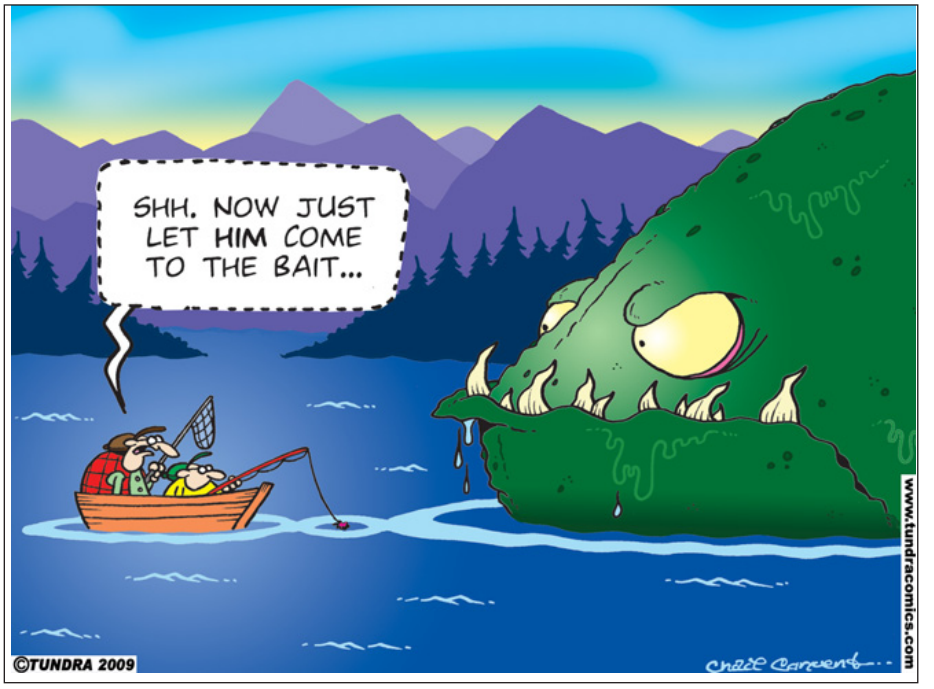
After a two-day meeting held in Gatineau, Quebec for women's status ministers, Ambrose announced that while she sympathizes with Aboriginal women, the government will not be taking specific action on this issue at the present time. Instead, Ambrose insisted that there was already "very good concrete measures to deal with this issue." Ambrose was referring to the funding Ottawa allocated to the RCMP in the 2010 budget to create a national database for all missing persons and increased wire-tapping.

This has happened despite the fact that Statistics Canada just released new information showing how in 2009, the rates of violence against Aboriginal women in the 15-34 year old category was exponentially higher than that of the general population.

## Cree actor Gordon TooToosis dead at 69

Canadian Stony Cree actor Gordon Tootoosis has passed away at the age of 69. The television and film star of projects like Legends of the Fall, North of 60, Wapos Bay and most recently, Blackstone, passed away in a Saskatoon hospital after suffering a bout of pneumonia.

Tootoosis' career in the entertainment industry spanned over 37 years, beginning with Alien Thunder in 1974. Having also made contributions to social work, politics and the arts, Tootoosis was celebrated with the Order of Canada on October 29, 2004. The award recognized his work in being an inspirational role model for Aboriginal youth.




Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com

*Cree Artist*
**Tim Whiskeychan**
**Age:** 43 years old
**Born:** February 12, 1968
**Son of:** (the late) Harry Whiskeychan and Laura Sackabutscum
**Married to:** Bertha Dixon
**Father of:** Emma Jane, 6
**Home community:** Waskaganish, Quebec

# Creative gem

## Tim Whiskeychan employs numerous mediums to explore his artistic visions

By Pierre Coulombe

Tim Whiskeychan is a productive and prolific artist and generalist of sorts when it comes to the visual arts – he's a painter, illustrator, sculptor and craftsman. Many samples of his work are displayed in his hometown of Waskaganish and throughout the greater James Bay community.

Fluent in three languages, Whiskeychan is able to keep his modesty as we peruse his portfolio, while he claims paternity to a 25-foot granite monument standing in the heart of Waswanipi, He also introduces me to a collection of paintings, some of which had residency in metropolitan art galleries, and traveled as far as Normandy, France.

His work includes sculpture (metal and granite), oil and acrylic painting, watercolour, stained glass and airbrushing. He has produced logos, banners, panels and signs of all kinds. Whiskeychan carries quite an impressive portfolio, to say the least.

"WHISKEYCHAN IS PROUD TO SAY THAT HE'S BEEN USING THE SAME PAINTBRUSHES FOR OVER 20 YEARS."

I was enthralled by a large stained-glass project, which adorns the local school library in a beautiful and appeasing light of spectral colours. The work features four geese by a shore – two of which are in flight. Majestic, ornamental… it certainly ranks among the top decorative projects ever designed for a

Tim and his Dad

school that I've seen. It could easily enhance a church, an embassy or any parliament building.

The son of a tamarack decoy maker and a supportive mother, Whiskeychan learned from his parents the joy of tackling a task and completing whatever he starts. A self-taught artist in his early life – who spent hours upon hours sketching and observing – he finally at the age of 28 decided to enroll in the Fine Arts program at Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario, with a goal of improving his technique and seeking advice from professional artists. "We are never too old to learn… and learning is a lifelong process," Whiskeychan states, unequivocally.

At Cambrian, he met Jack Tapilla, an illustrator, and his wife Betty, a painter; the two became his teachers and mentors. They were the perfect match for him, and made him feel welcome right from the start. "The Tapillas helped me discover myself and take criticism with an open mind," Whiskeychan said. "They often told me to 'loosen up', to 'breathe', and not to be so uptight about accuracy... They helped me see the bigger picture."

Whiskeychan received a recognition award from his college and his assignments were exhibited in the Art Gallery of Sudbury. He has been part of numerous exhibitions ever since and some of his work belongs to permanent collections.

Whiskeychan has also been a recipient to many grants, awards and honorariums. Some of his work has been commissioned by the Grand Council of Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Nation magazine named him Best Cree Artist of James Bay for three consecutive years (1998 to 2000).

## Painting (Cree Style)

Though he uses a variety of media, acrylic painting is Whiskeychan's finer specialty. Like many other Native artists, Whiskeychan seeks optimal effect with an economy of actions – that is to create a sensation with a simple stroke that would have resulted from long hours of layering. We both agreed this trait is quite common among Native artists and could be the remnant of survival economy where Native people have been known to be practical about the time available and the results that are sought.

Like other Native artists, Whiskeychan favours acrylic paint to oil because it is a "fast" medium. Since acrylic is water-based, it gives good efficiency. It is clean. It leaves no fumes. And Whiskeychan is proud to say that he's been using the same paintbrushes for over 20 years. He also mixes airbrushing with classical painting because it helps

create with more realism. Abstract painting is also privileged among his current artistic ventures.

have also broadened his perspective on traditional topics. His work is archival as such, and often depicts whole episodes

"THE SON OF A TAMARACK DECOY MAKER AND A SUPPORTIVE MOTHER, WHISKEYCHAN LEARNED FROM HIS PARENTS THE JOY OF TACKLING A TASK AND COMPLETING WHATEVER HE STARTS."

## Content

Portraits and nature scenes are common features in his work. Whiskeychan was able to develop his own Cree style by using his language, his culture and his knowledge of history. His interest in archeology and ethnography enables him to represent Native traditions and values in an honest and authentic fashion. His travels to Navajo reservations in the U.S. of Native life in fine detail. Native art is like a history book that we can read and learn from. Whiskeychan has produced many longitudinal story panels depicting multiple aspects of Cree life. Mixed media also transmits a bundle of information; canvas is replaced by gesso, deer hide, and moose hide while incorporating birch bark, caribou lacing and edging, and feathers.

## The Future

All artists are well aware of their role in transmitting culture to their people and abroad. Whiskeychan took it a step further and invested himself with the regional chapter of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association where he sits as vice-president and spends his time promoting artists of all ages. He will be representing the Cree among 10 other nations at the upcoming First Nations' Art Symposium at Mashteuiatsh Pointe-Bleue in August.

Whiskeychan ends our meeting by proudly introducing his daughter Emma Jane, a quiet young lady who's been overlooking the interview for a while. Emma Jane is showing signs of a precocious talent as her father exhibits some of her better work. Definitely a "chip off the old block" – if I may say so.

Waachiiyaa!

THE BUILD-UP OF A SUCCESS STORY

# SUNNY BBQ TO CELEBRATE AN AMAZING FIRST SEMESTER FOR THE ASHUUGAN II – CHISASIBI PROGRAM

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
CENTRE D'ÉTUDES COLLÉGIALES à Chibougamau
ISO 9001: 2008

The Ashuugan II – Chisasibi program started on February 7th, 2011 in partnership with the Cree School Board. This was to be the students' first semester of College studies and all were very motivated by the challenge.

The semester was filled with interesting learning activities, including:

- a visit from the Katimavik group to talk to us about their organization and also about attending College outside Chisasibi;
- an evening of French cooking and baking;
- practicing martial arts and learning about having a healthy lifestyle;
- and lectures from guests, to name a few.

Throughout all this, and until the end of the semester, the amazing students stayed on task and gave it everything they had! The teachers and pedagogical advisor are extremely proud of them!

We celebrated the end of the semester with a delicious barbecue at the beach. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students' children to witness their parents reaching for their goal!

**Congratulations to the students on finishing their first semester! We all look forward to the second semester starting in August 2011. See you then!**

## The Ashuugan II ANOTHER SUCCESSFULL STORY !

# Driving for funds

## QNW's golf tournament raises money aiding Quebec Native women

By Daniel Coyle

M. Picard et M. Goeffrey

Honorable Céline Hervieux Payette

It was a beautiful start to the summer season as Quebec Native Women Inc. (QNW) hosted the organization's 5th Annual Golf Tournament. Once again held at the Caughnawaga Golf Club in Kahnawake, this year's tournament attracted more than 100 golfers and raised over $15,000, which QNW (www.faq-qnw.org) will use to deliver a number of programs designed to aid Native women across Quebec.

Founded in 1974, QNW represents women from the First Nations in Quebec and Aboriginal women living in urban areas.

QNW is a bilingual organization and a member of the Native Women's Association of Canada. The group sits at the table of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, on the Board of Directors of the Native Para-Judicial Services of Quebec, at the Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec, as well as several other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal commissions and committees.

Michèle Audette, President of QNW, was particularly enthusiastic about what the QNW Annual Golf Tournament means to the organization's fundraising efforts.

"Without the generosity of the Mohawk community of Kahnawake and the continued participation and encouragement of QNW's supporters, our organization would not achieve the goals it has set for itself to defend and support Native women on all levels," said Audette. "Thank you all for your great generosity!"

QNW's mission is to support Aboriginal women in their efforts to better their living conditions through the promotion of non-violence, justice, health and equality. QNW's programs are designed to empower women in their commitment to their communities.

On the political scene, QNW works for the recognition of equal rights for all Aboriginal women in Canada, both legislatively and constitutionally.

This year's event was co-chaired by Ghyslain Picard, Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, and Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, who has been in involved in a number of initiatives related to First Nations issues since her appointment to the Senate in 1995. Also in attendance was Geoffrey Kelley, Quebec Minister responsible for Native Affairs.

"As a woman in politics, I gave myself the mission to help women reach their just position in our society," said Hervieux-Payette. "This is a universal principle that must prompt us to act for the benefit of Aboriginal women in Canada. This is the reason why, at the invitation of Ms. Michèle Audette, I enthusiastically accepted to co-chair this tournament."

"I know how much work the work of QNW and of its employees has a positive impact on the improvement of living conditions of our Aboriginal sisters, particularly through the promotion of non-violence and Native women shelters, justice & public security, health, HIV/AIDS, international and youth programs," added Picard.

"In fulfilling this crucial mission, QNW contributes not only to improving the quality of life of Aboriginal women, but also to improving the conditions of families and communities. For this, I say thank you."

Corporate sponsorship also played an important role in the success of this year's tournament. In addition to the Nation, which again was involved in raising awareness of the tournament, corporate sponsors included:

- AQASI
- Bijouterie Linda Richer
- Bijouterie Robert Richer
- CGA - Alain Daoust
- Copiemont
- FTQ
- Gagné Letarte, SENCRL, lawyers
- Groupe Recherche Focus
- Guy Latouche, urban planner
- Hotel Delta Montréal
- Hotel du Fort
- Hotel Maritime
- Hyundai Châteauguay
- K103-FM
- Lise Cree, painter
- Maison Missinak
- Ministère de la famille et des aînés
- Mohawk Council Kahnawake
- Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation
- Rainbow Tobacco
- Régime Bénéfice Autochtone (RBA)
- SAA
- Snackers
- Sodexo
- Sports Rousseau
- TLC Impressions Global
- Via Rail

# "Proud to Serve"

## Chisasibi celebrates the opening of the new Cree police headquarters

By Amy German

According to Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, June 28 will go down in the history books of the Cree nation as a day of pride and celebration as yet another dream, once conceived of by Cree Elders some 40 years ago, has finally been realized.

The rainy June morning marked not only the opening of the new Eeyou Eenou Police Force (EEPF) facility but also the swearing in of Police Director Reggie Bobbish. The morning's ceremony was then followed by a community feast.

Lieutenant Coonishish, Matthew Coon Come and Lieutenant Hester.

In his address to the many who had gathered from throughout the communities for the historic event, Coon Come spoke of how the new facility wasn't just a symbol of pride because of its magnificence but because it also demonstrated the capacity of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee to assume governance responsibilities in a key sector, that of police and public security.

Coon Come also spoke about the moments in history that had led up to this final inauguration so that it may benefit the Cree people the most.

While the EEPF was established by the Cree Regional Authority on April 1, 2011, it has taken literally decades of hard work on behalf of many bodies within the Cree nation for the formation of the regional police force to come to fruition as it was laid out in Section 19 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

Originally, the Agreement stipulated that there be two kinds of police forces in the Cree territory: (1) the Cree Units of the Sûreté du Québec and (2) the Cree Local Community Police Forces.

However, in Complementary Agreement No. 19 to the JBNQA, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), the Cree Regional Authority, and the governments of Quebec and Canada agreed to amend the JBNQA so that "Cree Units of the Sûreté du Québec" were replaced by "Cree Local Community Police Forces", who in turn were to be replaced by a new Cree regional police force, the EEPF.

Coon Come went on to explain how the Police Act, established on April 1, 2009, helped to create the legislative framework for the establishment of the EEPF. This was one of a handful of other Acts, each step necessary to the process. He reviewed each of them so that all those attending the inauguration could grasp exactly how much time and effort went into the creation of this police force and why Crees can take pride in it.

"To me this was a great moment in the history of the Cree nation. We have certainly achieved one of the dreams of our people during the negotiations that have led up to this point. Their dreams to have their own police force, their own justice buildings and to be able to have their own regional police force have been realized. Forty years later we now have officially inaugurated the head office of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force," said Coon Come, reflecting on the event.

In a speech made regarding his swearing in and the headquarters inauguration, Bobbish spoke about how happy he was to be amongst his people to celebrate this moment. After thanking several individuals for their contributions, including the Police Commission, its former president, Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff, Anthony Hester, Calvin Blacksmith and Dave Heritage as well as several other Cree clans that have contributed to the legacy of Cree policing, Bobbish turned his attention to how the new EEPF will make a difference.

"You have probably noticed our new uniforms; new colours or even our new headquarters. Although these are nice to have, what I'm most proud of is our emblem and our motto 'Proud to Serve'. Those words are not meaningless and as your new

police director, I hereby commit myself to do everything in my power to improve the security of my fellow citizens," said Bobbish.

Coon Come discussed how the new police headquarters and each integral aspect of the newly emerging justice system within the Cree nation is not only changing the face of justice within the communities but also the image of justice and its impact on the people.

"It is always a real challenge how to integrate your own customs and values in respect to sentencing for people who commit these crimes. Some are very petty but people need to understand that our police officers, our special constables, are there to help people. They are there for safety, for security and the people need to feel safe. It is only the people who break the laws who are afraid of the police. Good, law-abiding citizens should not be afraid of the police," said Coon Come.

With the celebrations completed, the new regional police headquarters fully operational, a handful of new justice facilities already working and several more slated to open soon, the face of justice has changed dramatically in Eeyou Istchee in just a few short years. How this will impact the Cree people is yet to be seen however.

# Far from home

## Guy Simoneau's new documentary sheds light on five Inuit who live in urban Canada

By Akiva Levitas

Continuing with his passion for making films that expose and remove prejudices, Quebec filmmaker Guy Simoneau has created Qallunaaliaqpallianiq – Heading South, a compelling new documentary that focuses on Inuit living in southern cities of Canada. The five people who this film follows are a varied group with little in common except a shared ancestry and desire to help their community. All five – an artist, a lawyer, a caterer, a community leader and a student – are trying to reconcile their Aboriginal past and culture with modern life in an urban setting. The purpose of Qallunaaliaqpallianiq is to dispel those preconceived notions which reduce Native peoples to just their problems and to showcase how they work hard for each other and their communities.

Marie, a young Inuk student, heading to Ottawa for university is the central focus of this documentary. She represents all the potential and determination of her people. Her story doesn't fit in with the others because she is still learning who she is as an Inuk and as a Canadian. As the documentary progresses, the story of these people's lives draws us in because they love what they do. We see how they work and we follow their progress, from cooking a traditional Inuit meal or carving a whale bone for a museum to fighting for a community health centre or struggling for reconciliation. Throughout all of these events, we see the tenacity and strength of these five Inuit and their devotion to their brethren in the North who inspire them to keep on keeping on.

> "ALL FIVE – AN ARTIST, A LAWYER, A CATERER, A COMMUNITY LEADER AND A STUDENT – ARE TRYING TO RECONCILE THEIR ABORIGINAL PAST AND CULTURE WITH MODERN LIFE IN AN URBAN SETTING."

Through these five individuals, we are given a window into the lives of the Inuit communities in the south be it in Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto. How they handle the different environment and culture while still holding onto their culture, tradition and language. Out of the five only two are shown speaking Inuktitut fluently while the other three have little to no knowledge of the language. It is not just the young people who are losing their language but as a result of Canada's dark history in its treatment of Aboriginals many to be forced to disconnect from their language and heritage.

The Inuit are a proud people but unfortunately in the public eye they are only shown in negative ways since only the problems that plague their communities are portrayed. What Simoneau does in his film is to reveal the pride these five individuals have for Inuit culture and community as well as to show outsiders what is really going on and not to dwell on the negative images created by the mainstream.

The documentary is done in Simoneau's distinct style – a personal and up-close view on the daily lives of his subjects. By being with the people in their homes, the director has given his film a comfortable setting which is contrary to what you would expect from a fish-out-of-water story. This comfort and openness enable viewers to connect emotionally with the five because what we see is so raw and vivid. The strength of the documentary is how on a personal level all the characters' lives are connected to their community – something we should all strive for.

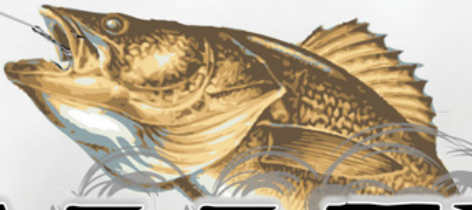
Qallunaaliaqpallianiq has all the key ingredients to appeal to a larger public: down-to-earth and personal filmmaking, inspirational individuals who have achieved despite adversity, and a touching and hopeful ending. For the new generation of young Inuit there will be a new class of role models, ones who have adapted to the changing world and thrived while keeping a link to the past and promoting their culture.

# AUGUST 5, 6 & 7 2011

CREE NATION OF WEMINDJI

Wemindji
Recreation Department
invites you to their

WEMINDJI SPORTS & RECREATION



# WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

at
## Yasinski Lake
km540 on the
James Bay Highway

design : Trim-Line of Abitibi

GRAND PRIZE
valued at $35 000

valued at $24 000

valued at $6 000

**WALLEYE**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st | Dodge RAM Crew Cab |
| 2nd | 18' Legend boat w/ 90hp outboard motor (upgradable) & trailer |
| 3rd | 16' Legend boat w/ 25hp motor and trailer |
| 4th | $3,000.00 |
| 5th | $2,000.00 |
| 6th | $1,000.00 |
| 7th-10th | $ 500.00 |

**Heaviest walleye of the day : 200$ / day**

**PIKE**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st | $ 300 |
| 2nd | $ 200 |
| 3rd | $ 100 |

**Registration fee**
**$200.00 / participant**
**Extra : 20$ for pike category**

**18+**

**INFORMATION**
**Wemindji Recr. Dept.**
T. 819 978-3818
F. 819 978-3060
C. 819 978-7620

All proceeds from this tournament will go to benefit the community programs for children.

# A big "No" to niobium mining

## Mohawks and other communities stage protest at Niocan meeting

By Amy German

As more voices join the movement to stop a niobium mining project on Kanehsatake territory, the pressure to put an end to the project is mounting amidst a great deal of suspicion and confusion.

On June 30 about 40 protestors congregated in front of the Best Western Ville-Marie Hotel as Niocan shareholders met about the project within the hotel.

Among them was Ellen Gabriel, former President of Quebec Native Women Inc. and onetime chief negotiator and spokesperson for the Mohawk people of the Kanehsatake during the 1990 Oka Crisis.

Thankfully, Gabriel and the Mohawks aren't alone in fighting this project. A niobium mine would significantly damage the aquifer that provides well water for not just the majority of Kanehsatake residents but also for residents of the surrounding communities, including many farms.

According to Gabriel, while the Quebec government was ready to give the project a go-ahead initially when the company had applied a decade ago, the environmental assessment that it submitted to the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) has been rejected. She credits this to the petition of 5600 names that was presented in the National Assembly this past spring.

"The other major issue is the fact that we have stated our objections to this project and the government is obliged to respect our inherent rights…. Whether they do or not, I don't know but they are legally obliged to do that," said Gabriel.

While niobium mining in itself is actually rather innocuous when it comes to environmental damage, the problem with this project is that Niocan would have to dig through several layers of uranium-laden rock to get to the niobium. In the process of uncovering the niobium, not only would the water being used for this project be contaminated with carcinogenic uranium but a significant portion of radon gas would also be released to the detriment of human health.

Though the Niocan project is stalled for the time being, Gabriel said another company, Augyva Mining Resources Inc, is hard at work to see this project through under its own supervision, making several attempts to buy controlling shares of Niocan and also conducting a separate study on the old Saint Lawrence Columbium mine nearby.

While Gabriel said the administration for the municipality of Oka told her that Augyva is looking to see if the area can be turned into a park, at the same time they are also looking to see if there could be any kind of economic spinoffs from the old mine, which has been defunct for over 35 years now. This is what strikes her as suspicious. Though the company has claimed that this is not a "mining project" per se as they are not dynamiting or digging, an environmental lawyer has told the Mohawks otherwise. If they are extracting minerals – even if it is just on the surface – it is still considered a mining project.

Gabriel said there has been talk that if Augyva gets controlling shares of the project, the company could use the Saint Lawrence Columbium Mine as a dumpsite for the niobium mine tailings.

Regardless as to who is running the project, the fact that the project would be so devastating to the environment is what has those in the region so adamant to have the project stopped. Particularly as, according to Gabriel, Niocan has not been honest about exactly how much water the project would require on a daily basis.

"A hydrologist who looked at the project said Niocan had estimated that it would use two million gallons of water per day but the independent hydrologist said it would be much more like eight million gallons of water per day," said Gabriel.

In turn the company would set up a water treatment system for the residents but Gabriel said she was wary of the idea since the cost for that many people would be astronomical and that is not to mention the many farms in the area that are also reliant on the wells.

Ellen Gabriel, former President of Quebec Native Women Inc

Many of the farmers in the outerlying communities are also concerned as in the last few years they have been developing agro-tourism in the area. However, if the mining project goes ahead, they could be left with few legs to stand on when it comes to promoting organic products.

While Mohawks from Kanehsatake made their battle cries in front of the hotel, many of those from communities like nearby St-Joseph and Pointe-Calumet talked about protecting their homes and businesses. Gabriel said, together the two groups were a much stronger front since the government is always so quick to provoke the Mohawks and then discredit them as violent and unreasonable.

"If it is not going to benefit anyone in any way, shape or form and threatens our health then we have to say no. And, we have the right to do that as the titleholders of this land," said Gabriel.

# Digging for the truth

By Lyle Stewart

The lesson was brutal. "Do you know," I was asked, "what a gold mine listed on the Vancouver Stock Exchange actually is?"

Er, I guess not.

"A hole in the ground with a liar standing over it."

Twenty-five years later, that only slightly exaggerated observation often comes back to me when I hear the over-the-top hard sell with which mining companies invariably like to promote their projects.

At the time, I was a naïve 21-year-old tasked by my mother with finding out what, if anything, were worth all the obscure mining stocks my recently deceased dad had purchased over the years on the fevered advice of various brokers hawking sure-fire tips. I still appreciate the blunt learning moment provided by a stockbroker friend of a friend.

Despite all the dream-weaving and sure-thing-can't-miss promises my old man must have heard over the phone, the answer I received to my question was a big, fat zero. Nada. Zilch. Literally not worth the paper in the stack of stock certificates I had smugly slapped on the stockbroker's desk before being so abruptly disabused of my assumptions.

For different reasons, this moment came back to me when I read about the gigantic open-pit quarry being pushed by the Canadian subsidiary of a giant U.S. hedge fund – the $24 billion, Boston-based, Baupost group – in rural Ontario. In this case, there will no doubt be huge returns for the shareholders should it be approved, but the money-grubbing lies that will have made it possible are familiar.

This is what fascinates me: the sell. How do you get people to accept something they should know will be bad for them while gaining untold riches for the liars?

Five years ago, using a front called Headwater Farms, the Baupost group quietly assembled more than 8,500 acres of rich farmland near the community of Shelburne, Ontario. The land included big potato farms, overnight turning the shell company into Ontario's biggest potato producer. But, as it turns out, it's not spuds this company intends to sell with its property, but stones. Gravel, to be precise.

After completing its purchasing campaign, the company bulldozed 30 farmhouses, many of them more than a century old, as well as farm storage and processing buildings, in this region known as the Dufferin Highlands.

Then, last year, not so subtly changing its name to the Scots-friendly "Highland Companies," the smooth-talking PR specialist hired by the Boston moneymen suddenly announced the firm needed to diversify by creating the world's largest gravel pit. Though not in so many words.

More than 2,300 acres of Canada's richest farmland, he declared, would be carved out into a humongous, 60-metre-deep quarry to produce what the company elegantly terms "Amabel dolostone." It's what the rest of us know as gravel, after it is excavated from the limestone bedrock and crushed up in a massive industrial operation.

That's a pretty big hole in the ground. And what, do you recall, accompanies a hole in the ground? That's right.

It may not be gold in this case, but there will be plenty of silver to justify the massive fib that underlies the metamorphosis of Headwater Farms, potato producer, to Highland Companies, purveyor of environmental hell.

Accordingly, some pretty high-powered communications are going into green washing this operation as an environmental gain. If you watch the cartoon-ish video on the company's website, you might almost swallow the bait. More green space, more trees, more potatoes even.

Then I remembered the lesson I learned a quarter-century ago. If they aren't straight up with you from the start, there's a reason for hiding the truth. A big hole in the corporate fairy-tale is what will happen to the water that is filtered into absolute purity by the limestone shield the company will be grinding into gravel.

The company says it will pump 600 million litres of water a day from the quarry back into the regional watershed. To put it in perspective, that's the volume of water used by 2.7 million Ontario residents each day. Even if we believe the company position that it has the technology to accomplish this feat, critics point out that it would take three days of storage to settle the sediment that would be stirred up in the water by the quarrying operations, thereby tripling the amount of water the company would have to handle on a daily basis to 1.8 billion litres to prevent the massive quarries (since there would be several) from becoming instant blue areas on regional maps.

It's a lot of water to swallow. For their part, the experts in Ontario's Ministry of the Environment don't believe the hype. According to a story in the Toronto Star last week, a ministry report observed that the company's analysis "failed to demonstrate a three-dimensional understanding of the geology, hydrogeology and hydrology of the site."

That's more than a bit troubling for those who live – and drink – in the region. But it's consistent with the story.

While it might not be an immediate concern for the folks of Eeyou Istchee, we all know there is not going to be a shortage of holes in the ground proposed in Cree territory over the next several years. So we should also ensure that we verify all the grandiose promises and soothing statements of those who stand over – and stand to profit from – those holes.

Join a dynamic **English-language** school board!

The **Central Québec School Board (CQSB)** offers English-language education in the Capitale-Nationale, Mauricie, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Thetford Mines, Chibougamau and Schefferville regions. The CQSB proudly serves an elementary, secondary, adult and vocational education population of approximately 5,000 students, with a total annual budget nearing 60 million dollars. The CQSB is recognized provincially as an innovative leader and offers a work environment that is both motivating and enriching.

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- **French as a Second Language for Grades 1 to 6 (72% equivalent)**

If you hold, or are eligible to obtain, a valid teaching permit issued by the MELS, and you have an excellent knowledge of oral and written English and a good knowledge of oral and written French, you should consider joining our dedicated team. An enthusiastic individual with a genuine love for teaching, you are familiar with current programs, curriculum and research, and can recognize differences in students and respond appropriately by differentiating instruction for various developmental stages and ability levels. You have the flexibility needed to adjust a set plan and/or adapt lessons effectively, as well as knowledge of classroom management strategies to resolve discipline problems. Above all, you have the desire to work collaboratively with other staff on school improvement activities, and know how to motivate your students to reach their potential. Pertinent experience would be an asset.

The starting date for all positions is **August 25, 2011.** All employees are part of the Central Québec Teachers' Association.

All interested candidates are asked to forward their applications **as soon as possible.**

**To apply and find out more about other employment opportunities, please visit the "Employment Opportunities" section of our website.**

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CENTRAL QUÉBEC
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**www.cqsb.qc.ca**

The Central Québec School Board offers equal access to employment and encourages applications from women, members of visible and ethnic minorities, Aboriginal people and persons with disabilities. The Board thanks all applicants for their interest in these positions; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.


**Pssst...** Have any information you'd like to share with the Nation? Call us at 514-272-3077, and we'll look into your story. If you don't call us, your voice won't be heard!

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale

# Renard Diamond Mine Project
# Public Consultation Period and Federal Funding Available

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is conducting a comprehensive study, which is a type of environmental assessment, for the Renard Diamond Mine Project located in Quebec. At this time, the Agency is inviting the public to comment on the project and the conduct of the comprehensive study and to identify environmental issues that should be considered in the environmental assessment.

The Agency has prepared a background document that contains information on the proposed project, on the federal requirements of a comprehensive study and on the proposed environmental components to be considered in the review of the project.

The document and more information on this project are available on the Agency's website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca, in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry under reference number 11-03-55169. To obtain a copy of the document, please communicate with the project manager listed in this notice. You can also consult the document by visiting the following locations:

Municipal Library
650 3rd Street, Chibougamau QC G8P 1P1

Isaac Shecapio Sr. Administration Building
187 Main Street, Mistissini QC G0W 1C0

Interested individuals or groups are invited to send their comments, by no later than August 15, 2011, in the official language of their choice to:

Renard Diamond Mine Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Alain Bourgeois, Project Manager
1141 route de l'Église, 2nd Floor
PO Box 9514, Ste-Foy Station
Québec QC G1V 4B8
Telephone: 418-649-6444
Fax: 418-649-6443
MinierRenardMining@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

All comments received will be considered public and will become part of the project file. This is the first of several public comment periods that will occur during the environmental assessment of the project. Future public participation opportunities, for example the review of the potential environmental effects analysis and of the Comprehensive Study Report, will be announced at a later date. The Comprehensive Study Report and comments received will be taken into consideration by the Minister of the Environment before he issues his environmental assessment decision statement.

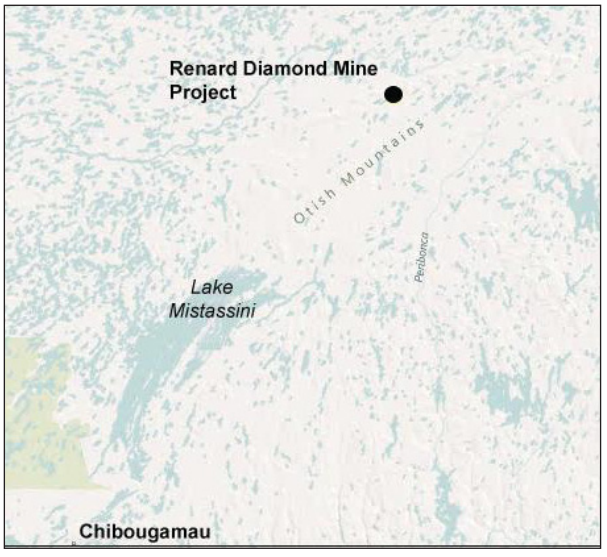
**Availability of $30,000 for public participation**
The Agency is making available $30,000 under its participant funding program to assist individuals and groups to participate in the federal environmental assessment process for the Renard Diamond Mine Project. This funding is intended for activities that will follow the public consultation currently underway.

Applications received by **no later than August 15, 2011** will be considered. To submit an application or to obtain additional information on the program, contact:

Participant Funding Program
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Suzanne Osborne
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Telephone: 1-866-582-1884 or 613-957-0254
Fax: 613-948-9172
PFP.PAFP@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Information on the Participant Funding Program, including a guide and the application form, is available on the Agency's website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

**The project and location**
The project involves the development of a diamond mine by Stornoway Diamond Corporation on its Foxtrot property in the James Bay region of Northern Quebec. It involves the development of the mine and local infrastructure, such as open pits, shafts, mine adits, groundwater pumping, mill, kimberlite tailings impoundments, housing complex, airstrip and associated facilities.



# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

## The woods are alive with the sound of...?

by Xavier Kataquapit

I woke up one morning in a half-dazed fog. I was in the woods at a cottage in the wilderness where normally the forest was quiet and still. There was no wind this night to rustle the leaves in a nearby stand of poplar trees or to blow through the tall pines surrounding the building. It was the early morning, in those dark hours just before the first signs of twilight. My friend Mike had woken me up and I popped up in bed with a focus on the window. He was wondering about a sound. Then it broke the silence. It was a hard-knocking sound deep in the woods. It sounded as if someone was striking a two-by-four against the trunk of a large tree.

I acknowledged that it was probably a moose and went back to sleep. In the morning Mike was still excited about the noisy night. He described the sound he had been hearing and I, of course, recalled the few bangs I noticed before falling back into my dreams.

We theorized amongst each other as to what might have caused the sound. I thought as before that perhaps it was a moose brushing its antlers up against a tree. I recall stories from hunters telling me about moose shedding the soft velvet skin covering the antlers by rubbing them against trees and brush. It also could have been woodpeckers or peepeesh-che-oo as we had heard these birds during the day making unusual chipping or knocking sounds in the surrounding trees. However, on more reflection I recalled Elders saying that most birds keep silent in the dark. It occurred to me that perhaps it might have been a distant cottage neighbour splitting a few logs for an earlier morning fire as it was a cool night.

When you spend a good amount of time in the woods, you begin to realize just how much life there is in the wilderness. After spending a few days in what seemed like a quiet uninhabited stretch of woods, we began to notice the many residents that make up the surrounding forest. Several animals and birds made themselves known through various sounds.

Loons (makwa) regularly landed in the lake nearby to swim and fish. They sang in a series of calls that ranged from long mournful notes to high-pitched whistles and cries. They fluttered their wings and stood on the water in a show of either agitation, excitement or the sheer enjoyment of being on a beautiful lake full of small perch. A hawk (mikisheesh) flew overhead on a regular basis and its distinct scream was a sign that he was not happy with our noisy human presence. Whiskey Jays (weesakeechak) darted in and out of the trees looking for morsels of food and when they weren't singing, they were fluttering nearby and very curious. Woodpeckers (peepeesh-che-oo) drilled away on nearby trees but we rarely saw them in action.

On a few occasions, when bold beavers (amisk) came close, they nosily lumbered over the ground, thrashed their way through bushes and splashed into the water. Sometimes they slapped their flat tails with a crack on the water. A rabbit (wabush) magically appeared on the property without making a sound but once discovered, it lightly thumped the ground in a few quick bounds before diving noisily into a thicket. Squirrels (aneekoochash) regularly complained about our presence by chirping, squealing and clicking in our general direction. Chipmunks (aneekoochashish) kept an eye on us while chewing on pine cones. In their more adventurous moments, they ventured closer in scurrying, scratching sounds on tree trunks to check us out. Sometimes squirrels or chipmunks would find each other and a full-blown war for territory would break out with these tiny animals leaping from branch to branch, bark scratching, chirping and squealing. A family of eagles (mikisoo) screamed from their high perches in the tall pine and we watched them circle overhead from time to time at distant heights.

That visit into the far north wilderness reminded me that we are never alone even in the middle of nowhere. When people claim there is nothing but trees in the forest they are very wrong. Still, my last visit was a surprise in that I heard a sound that I had never known before. I have not managed to explain that wooden banging sound as I was reminded by friends that moose normally rub their antlers on trees in the fall not summer. It remains a mystery. Perhaps you have an answer for me, and if so send me your thoughts by email to xkataquapit@underthenorthernsky.com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# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to my little diva niece Miss Jimianne Gunner. We miss you and love you! Hope your day is as fantastic as you are, You are one of a kind. Love always, MEL, Trayu and baby Ully. < 3

Happy 2nd Birthday to Our Daughter/Sister Keyshia Herodier on July 20th. Happy Birthday and many more to come have fun on your birthday. =) With Love, Mom, Dad, Brothers and Lil Sis! xoxox

## IN MEMORIA

**From Husband Henri Baribeau** At 55 years old Mary Ann Rabbitskin Baribeau passed away on October 30, 2004. We love her so much and we miss her since she left us.

## GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to our new Cree Anthropologist-Sociologist who obtained her Bachelor's Degree from Concordia University on June 21st 2011. All of Ann Masty and the Sioui family are so proud of you. You made it through all odds and we all know that your great courage and determination will get you to the highest peaks! Way to go girl! Keep up the good work and never except "no" for an answer! From Danielle Sioui Masty.

Enomey Masty! You made it! Through thick and thin (well mostly thick as most Cree people lol) but you did it girl. With all your courage and determination, you graduated from Concordia on June 10th 2011 and obtained a double major Bachelorette in anthropology and sociology. Wow! Way to go and you were the only Cree graduate from Concordia this year. It is a good example you are showing! We are proud of you and of the road you chose to take to improve your life and show all other students to never to give up and to keep up with the marvellous road which is education and accomplishment and therefore, success. You are showing your little girl a very good example and Danoheh (7 years old) is as proud of you as all the members of Ann Masty's family (Whapmagoostui). As well as the famous Sioui Sastaretsi family from Wendake, whom also have 3 doctorates within the same family . Eh! Not much choice anymore right? Again, congratulations and we all love you so much!

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## PERSONAL MESSAGES

From : James Neeposh Congratulations to all the Cree Nation Boston Bruins fans! I waited 39 years yeah yeah yeah! 2011 Boston Bruins Stanley Cup Champions!

## HOLIDAY MESSAGES

I would like to wish happy first Christmas to my first twin handsome grandsons Colton-Hawk Isaiah Masty and Dalton-Hawk Rupert Masty. You are both special blessings to our Masty family. I love your smiles when you both smile at granny, when she comes home from work! I love you with all my heart! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year boys! Love Granny Liz

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Missing Children's Network:** They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333.

**Kid's Help Phone Line:** 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

**Youth helpline:** 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

**Parent helpline:** 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

**Drugs: help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

**Gambling: help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

**S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:** 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

**Health and Sexuality resources center**: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

**Gay Helpline:** 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

**The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal**: 1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

**Suicide Action Québec:** 1-866-277-3553

**Residential School Survivors:** A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html

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